

Improved Load Bearing Equipment

DESCRIPTION

The Improved Load Bearing Equipment (ILBE) is designed to provide a durable and lightweight means for deployed Marines to transport their individual combat clothing and equipment. ILBE is a modular system consisting of a 4500 cubic-inch main ruck sack, a 1500 cubic-inch detachable assault pack, and a 100-ounce On-The-Move hydration system. The main ruck sack has two side pockets with associated compression straps for irregularly shaped gear such as 60mm or 81mm mortar rounds, skis, snowshoes, or Shoulder launched Multipurpose Assault Weapons. This program replaced the Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment system. Major improvements include superior durability, greater comfort of wear, reduced system complexity, reduced system weight, improved sustainability, and better integration with the Outer Tactical Vest. Additionally, a reconnaissance variant of this pack system is in production for the reconnaissance community and a medical bag version of the assault pack, the Corpsman's Assault Pack, is in production to replace the MOLLE med-bag.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

This improved load-bearing system will result in less fatigue, fewer equipment failures, and more combat effectiveness during the execution of assigned missions.

PROGRAM STATUS

Milestone C approval for Full Rate Production of the pack occurred in 2003. The equipment began fielding in 2004. Initial Operational Capability was achieved in 2005. Full Operational Capability is slated for third quarter FY 2007.

Procurement Profile:	FY 2007	FY 2008
Quantity:	3,000	TBD

Developer/Manufacturer:
Propper International, St Charles, MO